



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

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Press Release

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Congressman O'Rourke Partners with the Texas Veterans Commission to Help Alleviate the VA Backlog in El Paso

EL PASO - Congressman Beto O'Rourke (TX-16) will host a "Beating the VA Backlog: Backlog and Fully Developed Claims" event in partnership with The Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) in El Paso on September 4 in order to provide specific, one-on-one guidance to Texas Veterans, family members and survivors with new or pending disability claims from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This event will take place in at the El Paso Suites Hotel from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

"I represent more than 80,000 Veterans in the El Paso region, many of whom have waited an average of 449 days to get a response on their benefits claims," said Congressman O'Rourke. "That is why my office has partnered with the Texas Veterans Commission to host an event that will help Veterans with the benefit claims process. We owe a tremendous amount to our Veterans. We must uphold our end of the bargain and help them receive the benefits they have earned."

This event is part of the ongoing outreach effort at TVC to help Veterans locally and in person with their backlogged disability claims, and TVC State Strike Force and Fully Developed Claims Team members as well as TVC Claims Counselors will be at the event to serve Veterans.

"In the last year, the teams have already helped more than 22,000 Veterans with their backlogged claims," said Thomas Palladino, TVC Executive Director. "This 'Beating the VA Backlog' event is an opportunity for Veterans in El Paso to talk to a claims counselor one-on-one about their specific case and get information first hand."

The State Strike Force Teams and the Fully Developed Claims Teams were created by Governor Rick Perry, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst, and House Speaker Joe Straus in July 2012 and continued by the 83rd Legislature to help alleviate the backlog of disability claims in Texas, where the two VA Regional Offices had the third and fourth highest numbers of pending claims in the country.

The upcoming “Beating the VA Backlog” event is open to all Veterans, their families and survivors, and all services are free of charge. Preregistering will give staff an opportunity to research your claim prior to the event and provide you with the ability to select an appointment time. Walk-ins are allowed on a first-come, first-served basis as time allows. For details regarding this event, contact information and registration, please visit: <http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/Beating-the-VA-Backlog.aspx>.

Texas Veterans Commission

The mission of the Texas Veterans Commission is to advocate for and provide superior service to Veterans and their families in the areas of disability claims assistance, employment services, education benefits and grant funding. Over 200 skilled counselors in 75 cities provide one-on-one guidance to Veterans and their families to ensure they receive all of the benefits to which they are entitled. For more information about the Texas Veterans Commission services click here: <http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Home.aspx>.

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